VOL. 2

BRACEBITS

SEPT. 1987

NO. 9

EDITORIAL
by Hal Nason

Welcome to yet another edition of BRACEBITS. Thanks to the point system, which we installed a few months ago, we have several articles in this edition of BRACEBITS which were written by B.R.A.C.E. members who aren't on the newsletter staff. Keep those articles coming!! We hope that you enjoy this issue of BRACEBITS. I would like to remind you that the articles express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, B.R.A.C.E. as a group, or of any particular member of B.R.A.C.E. other than the author of the article in question.

Attention all members of B.R.A.C.E.:

We will have nominations for all offices this month. That is to say that all the officer's postions are up for grabs next month. We will talk over the possibility of spliting the position currently held by Norma Williams of Secretary-Treasurer into the two positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Please come to the meeting this month and add your opinion to those of the other members. Elections will be held at the October meeting.

I would like to thank Norma for the excellent job that she has done since she was kind enough to take over when Steve had to resign the position. She has worked very hard and put in a lot of time for B.R.A.C.E. She is a very busy person and has performed her job despite many other commitments. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, NORMA!!

It is my understanding that Norma will not accept any nomination for any position due to other commitments; however, the other two officers do intend to run for re-election. This does not mean that others cannot run for the offices of President and Vice President. It just means that there would be competition for the offices. I would like to see candidates for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer nominated before we open the floor for nominations for President and Vice President. It would be rather perposterous to have several candidates for the top two offices and none for the other two offices.

And finally, I'd like to take the time to tell you about the program this month. This month we will learn all creating Ataritoons.

DISCLAIMER

BRACEBITS is published monthly by B.R.A.C.E. (Bluegrass Region Atari Computer Enthusiasts) of Lexington Kentucky. All contents, unless otherwise noted, are public domain and available for duplication. This newsletter is created by and for dues paying members of B.R.A.C.E. It is also available on an exchange basis with any other Atari users group. Neither B.R.A.C.E. nor BRACEBITS is affiliated with the Atari Corp.. Atari and the FUJI symbol are registered trademarks of Atari Corp. Any reference to any trademark should be so noted and is acknowledged. The articles in this newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect that of the officers or the group.

Any dues paying member of B.R.A.C.E. may submit an article to the editor for publication. The deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month the newsletter is due out. Articles may be edited and/or published at the descretion of the editor. Articles may be mailed to Hal Nason, 258 E. High St. #9, Lexington, KY 40508 or submitted via modem to HOMELINK! (606)271-5468. AtariWriter is the preferable format, but any ASCII format will be acceptable.

B.R.A.C.E. meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The site of the meeting each month will be in room MN 263 University of Kentucky Medical Center. The public is welcome to attend our meetings but access to the library and the newsletter are limited to dues paying members of B.R.A.C.E.

B.R.A.C.E. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: PHILLIP TAYLOR
VICE PRESIDENT: HAL NASON
TREASURER/SEC.: NORMA WILLIAMS
LIBRARIAN: PATRICIA DANRIDGE

BRACEBITS EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR: HAL NASON
ASST. EDITOR: PHIL TAYLOR
EDITORIAL ASST.: PAT DANRIDGE

ALL OF THE ABOVE CAN BE REACHED AT:

B.R.A.C.E.
P.O. BOX 13063
LEX., KY 40583-3063

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE
By Phillip G. Taylor

Hello again. Well BRACE is at a crossroads in it's existence. The members have decided to go forth with an ST Raffle. This will hopefully mean some extra money coming into BRACE for a BRACE BBS. It is my hope that ALL MEMBERS participate. Your club needs you all to make this raffle, our most ambitious one, a success. Frankly, we need to sell at least 500 tickets to break even. I am hoping that we at least double that and can buy a system to run our BBS. I am confident that all of you will participate and sell as many as you can. If we are successful in this venture we can look forward to a bright future for our group. It is my belief that with this success, we can go on to become the PREMIER Atari Users group in Kentucky. After all, we done well so far, but a lot is depending on each of you to do your best for this group.

To help you get motivated to sell the tickets, there will be a $50.00 cash prize to the top sales person. Also we will award participation points to the top 5 sales people. 30 points to the top, 25 points to 2nd place, 20 points to third, 15 points to fourth and 10 points to the fifth place salesperson.

The tickets will be handed out the next BRACE meeting and don't be shy about asking for several. Also the BRACE board on HOMELINK 606-271-5468 will be the BBS connection for updates and requests for more tickets. If you don't have a moden, You can call my answering machine at 606-272-8760, leave your name and how many more tickets you need. We will make arrangements to get you the tickets you need so just call.

Other news, we brought back some neat stuff from Columbus. The software is already in the Library for your check out pleasure. See Library Bits elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

I am happy with the response to the point system. We have gotten more donations lately that poor Pat has had to really work to keep up with all the new stuff. LET'S KEEP PAT BUSY SHALL WE?

WE NEED NEW MEMBERS. The new member sign ups have been a bit draggy lately. If you know of an Atarian who is not a member, get him or her to the meeting and tell him that you want him or her to join up. After all, why hog all the benifits of BRACE membership to yourself.

ELECTION TIME IS COMING UP. The nominations will be held at this next meeting and the election will be held in October. If you want to be an officer, feel free to nominate yourself or coax someone else to nominate you. I know of one of the present officers who is not seeking reelection and due to a decision made by the officers, the job of secretary treasurer will be split so that there will be one secretary and one treasurer. Both of these offices are wide open at the moment so think about running for one of them. I do want to make one thing clear though, the person who is to be Treasurer needs to be 18 years old or older due to the responsiblity of the BRACE funds. However the office of Secretary is open to anyone regardless of age. So there is something that everyone can do.

Each person nominated will have an opportunity to write a brief 1/4 to 1/2 column statement as to why the want to be an officer. Those statements will be published in BRACEBITS for the October issue. Of course, the BRACE board on HOMELINK is available for such statements as well.

Oh by the way, the ANTIC DISKS have been ordered. Hopefully BRACE will soon have the disk available for checkout from the Library.

Well, till next month,

KEEP ON COMPUTING!

Ultima 4 vs. Alternate Reality
by Joe Tackett

Ultima 4 is always in constant competition with Alternate Reality. Both these games are graphic interactive fiction games, but Ultima 4 is much better for the following reasons:

#1-Ultima 4 has different cities, while Alternate Reality just drags on through the same old city.

#2-There is an interesting object in Ultima 4, which is to answer the ultimate questions, while in Alternate Reality, you have to just get home.

#3-When you buy Ultima 4, you get the ENTIRE game, while with Alternate Reality, you have to buy the 5 other disks following it to win.

The ONLY thing better about Alternate Reality that I can see is that Alternate Reality has better sound and graphics than Ultima 4.

I would advise you to buy Ultima 4 over Alternate Reality ANY day.

WRITING YOUR LETTERS AND COMMENTS:
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR FILING WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

There is a proposal before the Federal Communications Commission that will impose access charges on enhanced providers of telecomunications. If this proposal passes, GENIE, Compuserve and the like will have to increase their per hour charges about 100%. The FCC will read and consider your views in reaching a decision whether and how to impose access charges on enhanced service providers if you follow the following guidelines:

1. Letters: Type your letter on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and use the following format:

(YOUR LETTERHEAD OR NAME AND ADDRESS)

(DATE)

The Honorable Dennis R. Patrick,
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket 87-215
Amendments of Part 69 of the
Commission's Rules Relating to
Enhanced Services Providers

Dear Chairman Patrick:

[TEXT: Begin by describing who you are. Include any specific titles, duties, or responsibilities that would qualify you as someone who stands to be affected by the FCC's proposal. Of course, if you only use the GEnie service in a residential setting, explain that. The FCC will be interested. Explain why the use of the information services offering is important to you or to your business and what it allows you to do that you could not otherwise do.

Secondly, explain that you are aware that the Commission has proposed to impose access charges on enhanced service providers. Explain that you fear that this regulatory action would adversely affect you or your business.

Describe with as much detail as Possible what this would mean for you or your business.

Close by urging the FCC not to adopt its proposal to apply access charges to enhanced service providers.

Sincerely,
[NAME]

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Mimi Weyforth Dawson
The Honorable Patricia Diaz Dennis
Gerald Brock, Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
Thomas Sugrue, Chief, Policy Division,
Common Carrier Bureau
William H. Tricarico, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

2. If writing formal comments, use the following format and double space the text of your comments on 8 1/2" x 11" paper:

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendments to Part 69	)	
of the Commission's Rules	)	CC
Docket No. 87-215		
Relating to Enhanced Service	)	
Providers	)	
	)	
To: The Common Carrier Bureau	)	

COMMENTS OF [YOUR NAME]
==========

[TEXT: Follow the same guidelines for your text as in the formatted letter in paragraph 1 above.]

Respectfully submitted,

[If writing for a company, the name of the company in CAPITAL letters]

[NAME, TITLE (if applicable), and address]

[DATE]

If your comments are ten or more pages long, there are three additional things you must do. (A word of caution: Your comments will be most effective if they are short and concise).

First, attach a cover page with the heading used above at the top. In the center of your cover page type COMMENTS OF [YOUR NAME].

In the bottom left hand corner, put the date. In the bottom right hand corner type: (1) your name or your company's name if you are filing on their behalf; (2) your title, if applicable; and (3) your or your company's address, whichever is applicable.

Second, behind the cover page, include a two- or three-paragraph summary of your comments, numbering the pages using small roman numerals.

Third, behind the summary and continuing the small roman numeral page numbering, place a table of contents which includes the summary, table of contents, and any headings within the text of your comments.

3. Mail your letters and comments as soon as possible but please make sure they are post marked early enough to arrive at the FCC offices no later than September 24, 1987. This is the day that comments are due on the proposal.

4. Send two (2) copies of your letters to Chairman Patrick and to each of the other Commissioners and Staff members listed at the bottom of the formatted letter to:

[NAME]
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

If you are writing comments, send the original and five (5) copies to:

William H. Tricarico
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

5. If you are part of an organization or association that relies on information services for your activities, encourage other members to write, but do not use a form letter or comments if a number of you plan to write. The Commission frowns on these.

LETTERS TO YOUR SENATORS AND HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE

1. Type your letter and use the following format:

[YOUR LETTERHEAD OR NAME AND ADDRESS]

[DATE]

[NOTE: USE THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS AS FOLLOWS]

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

- OR -

The Honorable
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator (or Congressman)

[TEXT: Follow essentially the same format as that for your letter to the Federal Communications Commission:

Explain who you are and how you use information services. Note your concern with the FCC's proposal to impose access charges on enhanced services providers. Describe what effect this probably will have on your use of information services and, in turn, on your business or other activities. If you have sent a letter or letters to the FCC, explain that you have done so and attach a copy of your FCC letter to the letter to the Congressman. Close by urging the member of Congress to express his concern to the Federal Communications Commission.]

Sincerely,

[NAME]

2. The sooner you send your letters to Congress, the more effect your opinions will have because your representatives will be able to exert pressure on the FCC before the agency begins considering its proposal in earnest.

3. Again, do not use form letters. Let your representatives know that you put some time and thought into this matter and that it will affect you personally.

4. You may also wish to send letters to the following chairmen of the subcommittees which will be most interested in the FCC's proposal:

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Subcommittee of Communications
Committee of Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Telecommunications &
Finance
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 18, 1987 Minutes
By Norma Williams

The meeting opened at 7 pm with some news from the Columbus trip by Phillip Taylor. He told the members of the purchases he made for the club. Included in this was Infocom's newest adventure game Lurking Horror. This game was added to the library and will be available to members to check out. Also purchased was more disk holders and door prizes for both the 8-bit and 16-bit computers.

Next came the library report from Pat Dandridge which consisted of the newest library donations from members of the group and also that we will be purchasing more floppy disk for the library and for members to purchase. The disk will still be sold for only 50 cents each.

Hal Nason reminded us of our Atari St computer raffle starting on our September 15th meeting. Raffle tickets will be issued to members to be sold over the next 2 months.

New BRACE membership cards were issued this month. If you did not receive your card, please let one of the officers know.

Next came our program for this month. The program was given by Hal Nason and Phillip Taylor. The demonstration was on interfacing your computer with your VCR and audio equipment. The equipment they used was a TV, tape deck, Atari computer, 2 VCRs and patch cables. The VCR recording consisted of Atari Toons (Treewire), Desk Top Manager, MPP Express, Homelink BBS, Koala Pictures, Alternate Reality game and other Atari software. They also added music for background listening which consisted of songs by Pink Floyd, The Moody Blues and others.

Our meeting ended with a door prize drawing won by Brian Landers and checkouts from the library.

Infocom vs. Scott Adams
by:Joe Tackett

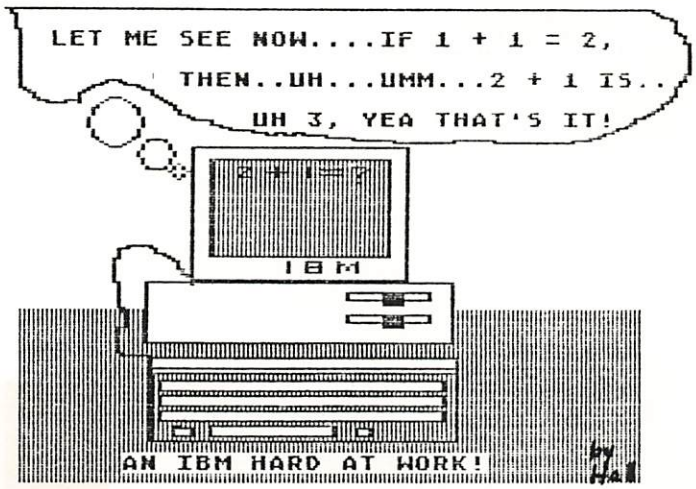
Two major interactive fiction companies are Infocom and Scott Adams Inc., these two companies have been neck and neck for years. Although Scott Adams was writing "Adventure" long before anyone ever heard of the company called Infocom. Infocom adventure games are alot better by far.

Infocom was first noticed nation wide when they first put out the non-graphics game based on the book Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Dougles Adams.

Scott Adams was noticed Before that for his "Adventure", the first adventure game that people noticed. Although Scott Adams' games are alot cheaper, Infocom is by far the best, so remember, next time you go looking for a good adventure game, buy Infocom!

An 8-Bit Extra From Analog Computing
by Brian Landers

This book is a listing of 20 programs and articles never seen before in the pages of Analog Computing magazine. These programs include some excellent utility and applications programs as well as several games. Included in the book are: a Trivia Game, a GEM-like operating system, a program to add password protection to your disks, and a screen dump for the 1020 plotter. In the games, there are several excellent ones, but many of them are written in Action! by OSS. If you don't have the Action! cartridge, you can order the book on disk for $24.95. This book is an excellent source of new and useful programs. I highly recommend it to everyone.



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COME TO THE NEXT MEETING OF B.R.A.C.E.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1987 AT 7:00 P.M.
UK MEDICAL CENTER ROOM MN 263